



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

June 2005 Volume 66 Number 6

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Amateur Radio Week 2005 is June 19-26
Canada has declared 2005 the Year of the Veteran



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Darryll Perrin, VE1HUP	826-1439	ve1hup@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhedickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhedickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair'man - Ed Grace, VE1EGG	865-9416	ve1egga@rac.ca
Field Day coordinator - EXECUTIVE		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Joe MacPherson, VE1CH	852-1295	jmp@hfx.eastlink.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes. This will be the rotation.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them.

If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



June 12	Tom	VE1GTC	Aug. 7	Tom	VE1GTC
June 19	Win	VE1WIN	Aug. 14	Win	VE1WIN
June 26	Peter	VE1PJW	Aug. 21	Peter	VE1PJW
July 3	Doug	VE1LDL	Aug. 28	Doug	VE1LDL
July 10	Dave	VE1EDA	Sept. 4	Herb	VE1HX
July 17	Charles	VE1MCR	Sept. 11	Dave	VE1EDA
July 24	Chris	VA1CDB	Sept. 18	Charles	VE1MCR
July 31	Pierre	VE1PTR	Sept. 25	Chris	VA1CDB

The **General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, June, 2005 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. The evening's topic - Field Day, addressed by various speakers. Guests are welcome.

GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access tone 151.4 Hz
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

Halifax ARISS Discovery Reflector (node # 9010). has its own website www.discoveryreflector.ca
Web master for the site is Brian, VE1NSX

Puzzler- Do You Know?

If you had a CSR5, an AR-88 or SP400. what would you have?



Answer to puzzler on page 7

Deadline for submissions to the September Reflector is Saturday, September 10, 2005

*Events for Your Calendar***Field Day 2005 June 24, 25, 26.**

July 1 – **Canada Day Contest** is a one-day contest beginning at 0001 UTC. Sponsored by RAC, it emphasizes working Canadian stations on HF through 2M.

July – Museum Ships Special Event

July 29 & 30- **IOTA** (Islands On The Air) is an annual event sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain

The second annual **DX Forum**, DATE: August 6 TIME: 0930 – 1630 James (TI2DU) is scheduled to be our keynote speaker. James is also the CEO & Chief Engineer of Radio For Peace International (a short-wave broadcaster located in Costa Rica)

August 13&14 -**MS Bike Tour**

August 19 & 20 – **International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend** – The HARC will operate once again from the Old Red School House at Peggy's Cove, not far from the lighthouse. It will be an opportunity for many club members to operate on the HF bands as part of a relaxed world-wide event. It will be helpful to have a number of Club members present to talk with the many Peggy's Cove summer visitors about both the event and ham radio. Set-up on Friday and operate from Saturday at 0001 UTC to Sunday at 2359 UTC

Sept. 30 – Oct 1; The **International Search and Rescue (SAR) Competition** will be held in Halifax and HARC has been invited to operate a special events station to commemorate the occasion. Using a special call sign, we will contact Coast Guard Auxiliary stations and other amateurs. We expect to operate from The Canadian Coast Guard base in Dartmouth on Friday and from the Maritime Museum in Halifax on Saturday. Club co-ordinators for the special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, # 16

Field Day 2005 is the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. Per rule 7.3.2, 100 bonus points are available to FD stations in all classes for bona fide efforts to obtain publicity for your Field Day operation from local media. ARRL Field Day 2005 publicity information now is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/contact/2005/04/fddocs>> for public information officers and clubs. The page includes sample news releases and information on publicizing your participation in Field Day 2005.

From the ARRL Letter

The Museum Ships Special Event weekend is an annual event which offers operators a chance to work some rare & unusual stations and collect unique QSL cards and certificates. Museum ships and subs world wide take part in the event. This event is sponsored by the USS Salem Radio Club whose members operate K1USN aboard the USS Salem (CA-139), the world's only preserved heavy cruiser, and WW2MAN from the Seehund U boat (U-5075) from their moorings at the US Naval Shipbuilding Museum in Quincy, Mass. For information including a listing of vessels planning to participate, see the K1USN Web site <http://www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html>

HARC has **Anderson Powerpole connectors** for sale at \$1.25 each (one red and one black connector for one complete end). A complete mating pair requires 2 connectors. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC; tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

If you want to use the **Club Station** for an activity please reserve your date & time with Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK
E-mail ve1phk@rac.ca

Hi guys, the Summerside ARC will be holding the PEI Amateur Radio Flea Market again this year at the Charlottetown Airport.

Ken VY2RU

PEI Amateur Radio Flea Market (July 9 2005)

Sponsored by: The Summerside Amateur Radio Club

Location: PEI Flying Association Bldg. "Old" Airport Terminal Bldg. 250 Brackley Point Road Charlottetown, PE
Opens: Vendor Setup 8:00 AM,

Buyers 10:00 AM

Cost: Tables for sellers, both private and commercial are \$5.00 each, Price at the door is \$3 per person

Talk-in: VY2PEI on 145.150 (-)

Notes: Restaurant Services will be available on site.

Please contact Rodney, VY2CGA, by email to reserve table space.

For more info visit:

www.summersidearc.com



Silent Key

Scott Mosher, VE1OG, passed away recently and his will stated that his Amateur gear go to the club. Bill, VE1MR, and John, VE1CDD picked up the gear May 16.

Thanks to John, VE1CDD, the HARC is being given amateur radio equipment from the estate of a ham who died 18 years ago in a motorcycle accident.

John met his daughter an unrelated event and the conversation got around to ham radio ...

The Maritime Provinces Callbook 2004 will be available at the DownEast Fleamarket

The AMSAT-NA Web site is <http://www.amsat.org>

Children seldom misquote you.

In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Finally summer or at least summer like weather has come, at least for a few days. A lot of club activity is going on in June and during the summer and I hope you can help out and take in some of these activities. Check page 2 of the Reflector for planned events.

The Field Day Workshop organized by Howard, VE1DHD was a success and well attended. Compliments to Howard on an outstanding job.

Keep in mind there will be Pizza Nights instead of formal meetings in July and August. Enjoy the summer and keep safe

73 - Bill, VE1MR

FIELD DAY TASKS

We still need people to co-ordinate and help co-ordinators with these tasks, if you can help please contact an executive member or a co-ordinator once we have identified them. Some tasks require only one person while other will require quite a committee. Please help where you can.



- * Bonus points coordinator
- * Copy FD message Friday evening
- * Prepare SM message Saturday
- * Loading & transportation of gear to site.
- * Checking gear beforehand - Towers, stakes, antennas, feedlines, bits & pieces
- * Organize radio & associated gear - radios & accessories (clocks, lamps, power bars, etc.) for each station
- * Food - purchase food, arrange delivery
- * Operators & loggers - CW, SSB, GOTA, etc.
- * Setup crew
- * Take down crew
- * Safety person
- * SSB station setup - where, what gear
- * CW station setup - where, what gear
- * Gota station setup - where, what gear
- * demonstration modes setup - where, what gear, what modes.
- * Transport gear from site and unloading.

I am sure I have missed many small tasks and any help is a plus. The setup and takedown will not be as intensive as last year because we are in the 2F class.

Do you know what the wartime "SSSS" and "RRRR" signals meant?

Answer on page 8



FOR SALE

We have a number of items for sale, these will be at the flea market June 11, but if **club members** are interested in any of these items let an executive member know beforehand and we will earmark them for you. If you are not sure about an item then you can also go directly to the club table when you arrive and look over what you are interested in. These particular items have just been donated to the club so most members are not aware of them. We will also be selling some club gear and I will list that separately. Prices are suggested and some are not negotiable (particularly lower cost items).

There are a few items and bags of bit and pieces for \$0.25

There are several various wall transformers, and other items for \$0.50

We have various cables, patch cords, RF adaptors, panel meters, picture frames, etc. for \$1.00 each.

There is a dipole antenna, some switches etc. for \$2.00 each

A Realistic 6" speaker in plastic enclosure, 1/8" mono plug for \$3.00

A Tenco C610 SWR, Field Strength meter for \$5.00

An articulated clamp on desk lamp for \$5.00

A soldering iron - small tip - probably low wattage for \$10.00

A Micronta VOM - in plastic case with leads & assorted clips \$10.00

An Oskar Block SWR200 Power, SWR meter - dual meter
- 52 and 72 ohm for \$10.00

An MFJ MFJ1702 2 way antenna switch for \$25.00

A Barker & Williamson FL-10/1500 TVI filter for \$ 30.00

An MFJ MFJ-816 HF SWR/Wattmeter - small style for \$30.00

A Homebrew Dummy load - fairly large - 100W + for \$30.00

A Heathkit HD1234 4 position Antenna Switch for \$50.00

A Tokyo HK706 CW key - enclosed for \$50.00

A Vectronics PS12VM DC power supply - adjustable voltage
- dual needle V&A meter for \$75.00

A Dentron Super Tuner Plus Antenna Tuner for \$100.00

An Azden PCS-7000H 2M FM set with MA0 TT microphone for \$150

A Yaesu FT-101ZD With desk microphone - spare tubes for \$175.00

A Yaesu FT-840 HF set with MH1B8 hand mic and FP800 power supply for \$750.00

FOR SALE

We are selling some club gear to be able to upgrade the club station. Prices are suggested and offers from **club members** will be considered on the following items. These will be displayed on the club table at the flea market June 11. If you are interested in any of these items, contact an executive member to have first refusal before 0930 June 11.

Kenwood TS-440 SAT (100 W - HF transceiver with auto antenna tuner) with matching power supply for \$600

ICOM IC-251A (2M all mode base transceiver - 10W) for \$275

The club will also have other items at the flea market such as the TH6DX advertised in the last Reflector.

Hurricane Watch 2005

Looking cheerfully ahead, we anticipate an exciting hurricane season as well, with five named tropical storms expected in our neighbourhood this year.

NOAA Hurricane Forecast 2005

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2438.htm>

DX n' HF for June Grand Manan DXpedition

By D. Howard Dickson - VE1DHD

I have lived in Nova Scotia for over 30 years and have never been out to Grand Manan Island. All of that changed recently when good friends Dick Grantham (VE1AI) and Scott Wood (VE1QD) convinced me to get away for a weekend and operate from a relatively rare IOTA location, but it had to be a place with sufficient appeal for non-Ham spouses as well.

We settled on Grand Manan Island and when we discovered the "Morse Code" cottages we arranged to rent 2 of the 3 cottages for the weekend of 13 to 16 May 2005 and set about planning our weekend.

Grand Manan Island is one of several islands in the southern New Brunswick chain of islands classified as IOTA NA-014. Situated 35 kms off the coast of Southern New Brunswick at the entrance to the Bay of Fundy, Grand Manan is about 26 km long, with an area of 137 sq km (53 sq mi). Included in this group of islands is Campabello Island.

Settled in the late 18th century, Grand Manan was claimed by the United States until 1817 when it was traded to the British for Moose, Frederick and Dudley islands in Passamaquoddy Bay, Maine.

To get to Grand Manan you take a 90-minute trip by car ferry from Blacks Harbour, N.B. The Morse Code Cottages are located about 5-minutes drive from the ferry terminal.

The DX Team - By the time we were ready to head to Grand Manan on May 12, Scott & Dick had recruited three other Hams to our weekend IOTA DX outing. Gary, VE1RGB; Ken, VY2RU; and Joe - NY1S. In addition to these operators (as well as myself, VE1DHD) 3 spouses joined us for the weekend Dxpedition; Sandra Grantham (Dick's wife); Sue Rolston (Scott's wife) and Ella McCormick, VE1PEI (Ken's wife).

The Station - The decision was made to set up and operate 2 stations; one running CW full time; the other SSB

voice. Scott & Dick contributed their two Yaesu FT-890ATs - one with an Ameritron 811H amplifier running 500 Watts; the other ran barefoot. For antennas, Gary transported seven, 8-foot sections of interlocking pipe that we used to construct two masts - one 32 footer, the other 24 foot. The taller served as the apex for a 20-meter dipole. We also attached one end of a 40-meter dipole (tuned up nicely on 15 as well) to this mast and the other end to the 24-foot mast. For 80 metres we set up a sloper, with one end at the top of the 32-foot mast and the other end tied off in some bushes at the edge of the field. All three of these antennas were fed to the back of the tuner attached to the amplifier on our voice radio. The CW radio was fed by a simple long-wire antenna, with three radials, that was wrapped around a 30-foot extendable Fibreglas pole and tuned with a heavy-duty Yaesu FC-800 external tuner. By the way, this tuner is a remarkable device and will tune absolutely anything! The antenna itself worked wonderfully and covered all bands from 80 through 10 including the WARC bands.

Getting There - As we were coming from different locations in the Maritimes & Maine, we agreed to meet in Blacks Harbour and catch the 13:30 to Grand Manan. This would give us time to get set up and ready to start operating after supper. Set up went without a hitch, thanks

to engineer Dick who had all of the antenna and radio layouts planned in advance. By 1800 hrs we had all of the radios and antennas in place, and while Joe and I worked to get the two computers networked and WriteLog operational, Dick fired up the voice radio on 20 metres, turned on the amplifier and gave a call. I think it was a Brit that came back to him with a 59 report. Dick told him about our planned weekend operation and then signed, saying we needed to finish the set-up and have a bite to eat before getting underway officially. Well....you should have heard the pile up. There must have been a dozen stations calling. I picked out calls from Italy, the UK, Germany and the US, but we had to go QRT.

Getting on the Air - So now for the real reason we went to Grand Manan - DXing from an IOTA location. Grand Manan has only one permanent Ham, Murry Brown, VE9MB, so we figured that it should be a reasonably popular location as far as IOTA chasers are concerned. We were not disappointed. Although band conditions were not the greatest, we got off to a reasonably good start. We made our first official contact at 23:07Z on Friday. 52 minutes later at we had made 71 contacts. By Saturday evening at 23:58Z we were up to 658 contacts and by 03:49 on Sunday the 15th we were at 892. Then the band just died. Joe NY1S was the only one operating at the time and right in the middle of a CW contact,

the other operator disappeared. Joe looked around a bit and heard absolutely nothing, with the exception of some strange "warbling sounds", so he went outside for a smoke. He noticed that it was very bright out, but there was no moon. But when he looked to the Northwest and saw the most spectacular



Grand Manan Team (L to R) - Howard (VE1DHD); Scott (VE1QD); Ken (VY2RU); Dick (VE1AI); Joe (NY1S); & Gary (VE1RGB)

(Continued on page 8)

FROM http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/cw_ss_list_proc.html

There are many many abbreviations used for words on CW, ranging from commonly used abbreviations like B4 for Before or TU for Thank You to very obscure abbreviations known only to the one using them. Thus such a list must be a very subjective list. The following are what I believe to be the most common and easiest to understand abbreviations.

This list courtesy of K3WWP's Ham Radio Activities <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/>

Abbrev.	Word	Abbrev.	Word
ABT	About	OB	Old boy
ADR	Address	OM	Old man
AGN	Again	OP	Operator
ANT	Antenna	OT	Old timer; old top
B4	Before	PSE	Please
C	Yes	PWR	Power
CFM	Confirm	RIG	Station equipment
CUL	See you later	RPT	Repeat; report
ES	And	RX; RCVR	Receiver
FB	Fine business	SED	Said
GA	Go ahead	SEZ	Says
GA	Good afternoon	SIG	Signal
GB	Good bye	SKED	Schedule
GB	God bless	SRI	Sorry
GE	Good evening	TMW	Tomorrow
GG	Going	TNX	Thanks
GM	Good morning	TT	That
GN	Good night	TU	Thank you
GND	Ground	TVI	Television interference
GUD	Good	TX	Transmitter
HI	Laughter	UR; URS	Your; Yours
HI	High	VY	Very
HR	Here; hear	WKD; WKG	Worked; working
HV	Have	WL	Will
HW	How; how copy	WUD	Would
LID	A poor operator	WX	Weather
MSG	Message	XMTR	Transmitter
N	No	YF; XYL	Wife
NIL	Nothing	YL	Young lady
NR	Number	73	Best regards
NW	Now	88	Love and kisses

Go to URL <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/morse.htm>

That link will take one to absolutely everything -- EVERYTHING! --a person would ever want to know about CW, including formats for typical messages, etc.

Gary, VE1RGB

Often the wireless has been a thin line across lonely seas –ed
From an article by Hugh W. McKervill in the November/December 2004 edition of "Saltscapes" magazine

S.S. Metagama, a CPR liner able to accommodate 1,654 passengers, survived World War I troop transport service and returned to peace time duties. On a crossing from Glasgow, Scotland to St. John NB with almost 700 passengers (including Mr. McKervill's grandfather) Metagama was nearing Cape Spear on June 19, 1924. In dense fog, Metagama and Italian grain carrier S.S. Clara Camus collided. As the sea was calm enough to allow the liner's pumps to keep up with the water pouring in through a 15 foot by 3 foot gash in her side, the captain sent a wireless message to J.J. Collins at the Marconi Co. in St. John's "SOS Collided with unknown ship seven miles east southeast Cape Race. Dense fog. Number one stokehold damaged. Am proceeding to St. John's."

Later Metagama sent

"Other ship in collision with S.S. Metagama is S.S. Clara Camus; calling for immediate assistance..."

Then nothing was heard from either ship for hours.

Metagama's orchestra assembled on deck and began to play. Mr. McKervill asserts that on hearing them begin to play "O God Our Help in Ages Past" his grandfather, knowing the Titanic story, took it as a sign that the end was near.

But the sea remained calm enough that that evening Clara Camus entered St. John's Harbour. About an hour later, listing 35 degrees to port and with 14 ft. of seawater in her hold, Metagama limped in and tied up at the Dock wharf.

S.S. Metagama's sister ship, S.S. Missanabie, was torpedoed and sank in 1918

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 17, April 29, 2005

As a tribute to the work of England's voluntary interceptors (VIs) during World War II, the Scarborough Special Events Group (SSEG) operated special event station GB2HQ from GCHQ in Scarborough. VIs intercepted encrypted Enigma messages transmitted in Morse code; these were passed to code breakers at Bletchley Park who were attempting to crack the German Enigma code. The GB2HQ special event took place over the May 7-8 weekend. A souvenir QSL card showing an Enigma cipher machine and an HRO receiver commemorates the occasion. GCHQ provided a working Enigma machine for use by the SSEG, and Ofcom--the UK telecommunication regulator--authorized transmission of an enciphered Enigma message in Morse code on the amateur bands for this event only. The Enigma message was transmitted Saturday, May 7, 1100 UTC (repeated at 1300 and 1900 UTC), at a speed of 15 WPM. Further details are on the SSEG Web site <<http://www.sseg.co.uk/>>

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the General Monthly
Meeting of Wednesday,
May 18th, 2005**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1932 with 41 members present.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President;; Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president;; Second Vice-president – Darryl Perrin (VE1HUP); John Goodwin (VE1CDD) – Treasurer; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager; Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member-at-Large; and Dick Grantham (VE1AI) Past-president.

Silent Keys: Scott (Scottie) Mosher – VE1OG. The membership was reminded of Scottie's WWII contributions and the fact that he had generously willed all of his radio gear to the Halifax Club. The Club extends its condolences to the Mosher family.

It was also brought to the attention of the membership that a recent tragic car accident had taken the life of the daughter of Paul Dunphy – VE1DX. The Club extends its condolences to Paul and his family.

Guests: BJ McLean brought to the meeting by Jim (VE1JIM). Patrick Gray has an interest in the ARISS program and in becoming a licensed Radio Amateur. (He was brought to the meeting by Wayne, VE1WPH). Wayne Sampson (VE1JWS) is a member of the Ground Search & Rescue Team and plans on becoming a member of the Club.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of April 20th, 2005:

MOTION - Approval of the minutes of the April monthly meeting as published in the May 2005 Reflector was moved by Peter (VE1PJW) seconded by Jim (VE1SFX). Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer – John reported a April month-end bank balance of \$9,545.74. A hard copy of the report is appended to the hard copy of these

minutes.

MOTION – acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Dave (VE1EDA) and seconded by Bob (VA1TX). Motion carried.

Secretary – Howard (VE1DHD) reported on the planned Field Day Contesting Workshop that will take place on Saturday morning, June 4th at the EMO facility, 21 Mt. Hope Ave. in Dartmouth. A detailed overview of the Workshop Agenda is appended to these minutes.

President – Bill announced that the late Scott (VE1OG) had willed all of his Ham gear to the Club. Bill and John (VE1CDD) picked the equipment up and have done an inventory that will be publishing in the June Reflector prior to the Flea Market on June 11th so that Club members will have an opportunity to review the list in advance of any sales at the Flea Market.

First Vice-president – Fraser (VE1WO) reported that there had been no offers made on the TH6 – six-element, tri-band antenna that was advertised for sale this month. Fraser also reported Callbook sales of 948 to date.

Second Vice-president – Darryl (VE1HUP) informed the membership that the Entertainment for the evening would be a talk by Fred Archibald (VE1FA) on the "Gibson Girl" WWII emergency transmitters. The door prize for the evening is a 1-million candle power spotlight.

Station Manager - Pat (VE1PHK) reported that he now has two of the refurbished laptop computers equipped with Ethernet cards and he is looking for a good price on a router to network the computers. Dick (VE1AI) reported that he had purchased a copy of WriteLog on behalf of the Club and will arrange to pass that over to Pat for loading on the computers.

Member-at-Large – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that he is looking into a bulk purchase of Club jackets and will keep the membership informed.

Past-president – Dick (VE1AI) nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that as of 15 May 2005, there are 146 paid-up members for 2005 (116 Full / 28 Associate / 2 Life). This represents the largest membership since 2001. Tom also said that he would appreciate knowing the new address of Paul (VE1PDX); if anyone has Paul's address, would they please pass it on to Tom.

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) reported that they have discovered that the new Ground S&R handheld radios were not factory programmed to operate at full power on the full-power setting. Fortunately the radios are programmable through a computer interface and supplied programming software and the problem has been rectified.

EMO – Dave (VE1AJP) reported that he is in the process of developing an amateur radio orientation document for the hospital EMO radio facilities to ensure that all sites are equipped with appropriate AC line power and outside 2-metre antennas. Radio Amateurs that are assigned to Metro hospitals in an emergency would only have to provide a base station and power supply in order to be operational.

Dave (VE1EDA) requested that all Radio Amateurs in Metro that have taken the EMO Radio Communication Course send him an email (VE1EDA@RAC.ca) to confirm their willingness to remain on the active list and receive information from the EMO via the CityWatch phone system.

Flea Market 2005 – there was no one available to report on Flea Market planning.

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary S&R Competition – Dick (VE1AI) requested that anyone who would like to volunteer to assist as an operator for the planned Special Event Station for the weekend of the competi

(Continued on page 7)

(Minutes Continued from page 6)

tion (September 30/October 1) should contact him by email at VE1AI@RAC.ca.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none

Reports & Announcements:

Public Relations – Wayne (VE1WPH) reported on the Halifax ARISS Discovery Reflector (node # 9010). The node was employed recently to link 21 schools in six different countries to an ISS-to-school contact. Wayne indicated that the new Reflector has its own website – www.discoveryreflector.ca and that the web master for the site is Brian (VE1NSX). Wayne commended Brian for a super job is setting up the new Reflector website. Additionally, Bob (VE1VCK); Bill (VE1MR); Tom (VE1TA); and Rob (VE1KS) have all played major rolls in getting the new Discovery Reflector and website operational. Thanks to all!

The Discovery Reflector is intended to be a key educational component for Amateur Radio, but will be available for other applications as well. For example, the Trans-Provincial Net is now using this reflector as its Eastern Hub.

Wayne indicated that Sir John A. McDonald High School are hoping to have an Amateur Radio station in their new school in Tantallon when it opens in September 2006, and are planning on making a direct contact with the ISS from the new school.

Field Day – Bob (VE1PQ) indicated that he is developing the SSB operator list for Field Day and requested that those wishing to operate contact him with a preferred operating time.

Grand Manan DXpedition – Howard (VE1DHD) and Dick (VE1AI) reported on a very successful weekend of IOTA DXing from the "Morse Code Cottages" on Grand Manan. Participants also included Scott (VE1QD); Gary (VE1RGB); Ken (VY2RU); and Joe (NY1S), along with spouses Ella (VE1PEI); Sandra Grantham and Sue Rolston.

For detailed information on the Grand Manan DXpedition go to:

<http://www.hfradio.net/bulletin/manan.html>

Door Prize: a 1-million candle power spot light was won by Fraser (VE1WO).

50:50 Draw – the draw (\$20.00) was won by Murray MacDonald (VE1MMD)

The meeting adjourned at 2030 hrs.

Guest Speaker – Fred (VE1FA) gave an extremely interesting talk on the Gibson Girls Radios that were developed during the Second World War and used to provide downed airmen with a way of reporting their location to rescue aircraft and ships. Fred's talk covered the subject from start to finish, including the capture of a German radio, which the British reverse-engineered and was later mass-produced by the Bendix Aviation

Corporation in California. Fred brought along his own Gibson Girls Radio and one of the original receivers that were used to get signals from downed aircraft, and gave a demonstration of how those nifty rigs were operated – no batteries, just a generator that was cranked by hand. Fred could not fly the kite or the balloon to keep the antenna aloft, but it worked well nevertheless. Thanks Fred for a wonderfully entertaining and informative talk. If you missed Fred's talk the following web site gives a nice overview of the topic -

<http://www.thekitesociety.org.uk/Gibson%20Girl.PDF>

Respectfully submitted by: Howard Dickson – VE1DHD, Secretary



Answer to puzzler on page 1

You would have a vintage short wave receiver, made by Marconi, RCA and Hammerlund respectively.

CQ ANNOUNCES ANNUAL "DX MARATHON"

(Visalia, California, 4/16/05) - CQ magazine today announced the revival of the long-dormant CQ DX Marathon, last run in 1948. The new CQ DX Marathon will essentially be a year-long DX contest, with stations competing to contact as many different countries ("entities") and CQ Zones of the World as possible over a full-year period, then starting again at zero at the beginning of the next year. The new CQ DX Marathon is part of CQ's broader "Waking Up DXing" program, whose goal is to reinvigorate DXing, or contacting hams in faraway places. The program was outlined for the first time at the International DX Convention in Visalia, California on April 16.

"DXing has always been the heart of ham radio," says CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, "and it continues to be the biggest thing that sets us apart from other forms of electronic communication. Healthy DXing activity is vital to the long-term health of amateur radio."

Bob Locher, W9KNI, (Idiom Press) inspired the new activity and joined in the announcement at Visalia. "Many active DXers have noticed a drop-off in general DXing activity outside of contests and DXpeditions," notes Locher. "I suggested that CQ start up an event that would promote activity all year long, would minimize geographic advantages and provide for simple scoring. It turns out that the CQ DX Marathon, which evolved after 1948 into the CQ World Wide DX Contest, was already based on the same concepts."

Scoring will be very simple, consisting of the total number of DX entities & CQ zones contacted over the course of a year. There will be no multipliers. Each country and zone will count only once. In the case of a tie, the station whose last qualifying contact came earliest in the year will be the winner.

Complete details & rules for the new CQ DX Marathon will be published in the May issue of CQ magazine and will be posted on the CQ website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com) after the issue is in subscribers' hands.

Best 73's, Tim/VE9XA

(Courtesy of Howard - VE1DHD)

From the Mail Bag



CW vs. TEXT MESSAGING --

Those of you who failed to watch the Jay Leno show on Friday, May 13, missed a very funny sequence. He had on two ham CW operators (dressed as old time Morse code telegraph operators, visors, armbands, and suspenders) and two young text messengers (over cell phones and dressed as, well, the "normal" dress of young men today). Each had to transmit a message to their colleague. Guess who won? If you want to see the sequence, click on

www.KU30.net and follow the instructions. Lots of fun. (Thanks to Harvey, W2YWC, and IRAC News) Other site with video:

<http://www.tarc.org/index.php?load=leno>

http://www.kkn.net/~n6tv/Text_vs_Morse_Leno_2005_05_13.wmv

See detailed story on the ARRL web at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/05/16/3/?nc=1>

73, Dave, VE1ADH

For those who venture above the ground.

It is recommended that you inspect your fall arrest equipment to determine if your Shock Absorber is affected by this recall.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/ohs/msashock.pdf>

Terry R. Bigelow CD CPO2 Ret'd



The wartime "SSSS" signal was used to report a submarine sighting or being torpedoed

The "RRRR" signal indicated a surface raider



From "Merchant Navy Sparks Recollections of Ernie Brown, VA3OEB". This series of recollections is being published in "Groundwave", the newsletter of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club. An interesting read and very appropriate for this VE-Day 60th Anniversary year. -ed

(DX Column - Continued from page 4)

Aurora Borealis, he knew that something significant had happened. It was not until we got home and onto the Internet that we realized that there had been a huge solar explosion and communication had literally been wiped out for several hours - the latter we certainly did know. This was one of the largest solar events in recent years - a G5 event, which is the highest on the National Weather Service Space & Environmental Service scale. The resulting K-Index, which measures the maximum deviation of the Earth's magnetic field in a given three-hour period, was a 9 on a scale of 1 to 9. I also heard from our Club's ISS and ARISS expert that the increased density of space, as a result of this solar event, caused the International Space Station to slow down by a few seconds. For more information on this go to:

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2437.htm> and <http://sec.noaa.gov/NOAAscales/>

By 03:49 we were up to 892 contacts. Over the next 20 hours or so we added another 103, and by tear down on Monday May 16 at 12:55Z we had 27 more contacts (in just about 13 hours - 2 per hour is tough slogging!!!).

The overall Stats -

DX Countries Worked

80m- 33
40m - 28
20m - 28
17m - 27
15m - 3

Band Total - 119

Country Total - 65

Zones Worked

80m - 9
40m - 11
20m - 12
17m - 10
15m - 3

Total = 45

Prefixes Worked

80m - 106
40m - 119
20m - 140
17m - 62
15m - 4

Total = 431

IOTA worked

80m - 6
40m - 6
20m - 4
17m - 4
15m - 1

Total = 12

Here is the country breakdown by prefix:

4J, 4X, 7X, 8P, 9A, C6,
CM, CT, CU, DL, EA,
EA6, EA8, EI, ES, F, G, GI,
GM, GW, HA, HB, HB0,
HI, HK, HP, I, JA, K, KL,
KP4, LA, LU, LX, LY, LZ,
OD, OE, OH, OK, OM,
ON, OZ, P4, PA, PY,
PY0F, S5, SM, SP, SV,
SV5, T9, TI, UA, UA2,
UR, VE, VP9, YO, YU,
YV, Z3, ZB, ZL.
65 countries in all.

So, although the weekend ended on a low note as far as propagation and radio contacts were concerned, overall I would consider it a success. We took some time to tour around Grand Manan a bit - it does not take long - and we found it to be a fantastic place. We spent time chatting with some of the locals to find out more about the history and culture on Grand Manan, and they could not have been more helpful or more hospitable. We also got to enjoy each other's company, and did I mention, we ate very well too. So all in all the weekend was a great success.

73 and good DXing. Howard (VE1DHD)

Due to lack of space the article as printed is an abbreviated version of Howard's original; also, only one photo could be included. The complete article and a number of photos can be seen on the HARC web site -ed.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 20

CW OPS WHIP TEXT MESSAGERS

During the Australian competition in April, a Morse team consisting of 93-year-old former post office telegrapher Gordon Hill--the sender--and 82-year-old Jack Gibson--the receiver--topped 13-year-old SMSer Brittany Devlin. During that event, Hill spelled out the message in full, while Devlin used text-messaging shorthand. In that competition, held at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Hill took 90 seconds to send the message, 18 seconds faster than Devlin's message took to reach her friend's cell phone.

**Working on Roofs Part IV -**

Researched & written by
Terry Bigelow, VE1TRB

(From the Occupational
Health and Safety Regulations)

Below is an extract from the COSH Regulations, hope this clears up any questions. Any further concerns can be found at the following web site:

[http://regulation.](http://regulation.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part11.asp#SectionNumber:11.2)

[healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part11.
asp#SectionNumber:11.2](http://regulation.healthandsafetycentre.org/s/Part11.asp#SectionNumber:11.2)

If work procedures are used under section 11.2(5)(c), section 11.3 requires there be a fall protection plan for the work site.

Prior to May 1, 1996, the IH&S Regulations provided an exemption from the normal fall protection requirements for "structural steel erectors or similar tradesmen experienced in working at heights". This exemption is not in the current regulation, and the use of fall protection now depends on the practicability of using it, not solely on the experience of workers. The experience (work history and record) of the employer and of workers in the type of work will be a factor in devising procedures acceptable under section 11.2(5)(c).

G11.2-4 Work procedures acceptable to the board

Effective August 16, 2000

Section 11.2(5)(c) of the OHS Regulation allows the use of "other procedures acceptable to the board" where the fall restraint and fall arrest methods authorized by sections 11.2(2) to (4) are not practicable or will result in greater hazards.

Some typical situations where work procedures may be acceptable because other forms of fall protection are impracticable are:

- Installation or removal of fall protection equipment (first person up/last person down)

- Light duty work for short duration, for example,

- - - Working off of a portable ladder doing a "light duty task", such as inspection or painting, where the



duration of work at each spot where the ladder is set will be for approximately 15 minutes or less. While doing the task, the worker must keep his/her center of gravity (worker's belly button) between the side rails of the ladder, and must generally have one hand available to hold on to the ladder or other support to maintain three points of contact (see also section 13.8(3)). (Note if the duration of the work on a ladder is likely to exceed 15 minutes, some form of fall restraint or fall arrest protection should be used.)

- - - Roof inspection or estimating, provided the worker minimizes exposure to any unguarded edge as much as possible, and provided other factors such as environmental (wind, ice), roof slope and surface finish do not present undue hazard.

- - - Brief transfers between fall protection systems where the worker is protected by having a "3 point stance" (two feet placed firmly on a suitable supporting surface along with one hand supporting the worker, while the other hand is used to transfer a connection from one fall protection system to another.)

- Work requiring constant repositioning, for example

- - -During the primary connection of skeletal structures, workers employed in the initial placement of skeletal members requiring climbing and walking on the bare structure may, depending on the particulars of the work to be done, be covered by section 11.2(5)(c). Trades with activities of this nature would include scaffold erectors, tower erectors, blowpipe ventilation erectors, structural steel erectors, and tower crane erectors. Workers on the structure engaged in welding, bolt installation, other fitting out work and climbing or walking on skeletal members should be able to use the fall protection methods referred to in sections 11.2(2), (3) and (4).

- - - Workers on roofs engaged in a process that will foul lifelines, such as roofing tar work, should work un-

der the protection of procedures as specified in sections 11.2(5)(a) & (b)

- Emergencies such as fire fighting (see subsection 31.17(4)), or the correction of an unsafe condition.

- Use of the normal fall protection methods results in greater hazard, for example, if using an auxiliary escape apparatus provided to meet the requirements of section 23.39 of the OHS Regulation.

If work procedures are used under section 11.2(5)(c), section 11.3 requires there be a fall protection plan for the work site.

Prior to May 1, 1996, the IH&S Regulations provided an exemption from the normal fall protection requirements for "structural steel erectors or similar tradesmen experienced in working at heights". This exemption is not in the current regulation, and the use of fall protection now depends on the practicability of using it, not solely on the experience of workers. The experience (work history and record) of the employer and of workers in the type of work will be a factor in devising procedures acceptable under section 11.2(5)(c).

G11.2-5 Fall restraint/Fall arrest

Effective August 16, 2000

When assessing a personal fall protection requirement, it is sometimes unclear if a situation may be treated as fall restraint, due to a very limited "free fall" distance in the event of a slip or fall. Fall restraint normally means a personal fall protection arrangement such that a worker cannot fall lower than the surface on which the worker was supported before the fall started. For example, a fall restraint system for a worker on an elevated flat surface would be arranged so the worker could go up to the edge of the work surface but cannot go beyond the edge in the event of a slip or fall. The system, in the event of a slip or fall, would result in the worker landing on the work surface and perhaps very close to going over the edge. Other work positioning ar-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9) **Working on Roofs**

rangements such as a firefighter secured to an aerial ladder or a tree trimmer or power line technician using a climbing belt and pole strap will normally result in the worker going through some vertical drop in the event of a slip. To allow their fall protection to be considered as fall restraint, their equipment should be arranged to limit the vertical drop as much as possible, and in no case should the total fall distance be more than 30 cm (1 foot). If this cannot be achieved their personal fall protection system should be considered as a fall arrest type, and the system thus has to meet the requirements for fall arrest.

A fall restraint system should only be used where a worker likely can regain footing or otherwise "self-rescue" immediately after a slip or "fall".

Fall protection equipment and components, particularly anchors, which are intended only for fall restraint applications should be clearly and permanently marked to indicate such limitation



Terry R. Bigelow VE1TRB
email: trbigelow@hfx.eastlink.ca

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, #48

Tim Richardson, W4IOU, an alderman in Acworth, Georgia, reports that his city has added language to its Residential Development Standards that allows antenna installations for amateurs living in subdivisions governed by deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) and homeowners' associations. -The Daily DX

OK, so it's in the US; but at least someone, somewhere has managed an "out" from antenna-restricting covenants....-ed

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 13

TEXAS BPL PILOT PROJECT SHUTS DOWN

An Irving, Texas, BPL pilot project that was the target of an ARRL complaint has shut down and removed its equipment. McIntosh, KJ5RM, who regularly commutes through the BPL test zone in the Dallas-Fort Worth area confirmed that the BPL installation in Irving, Texas, has been removed and is no longer operating. "Things are now so quiet you can hear a pin drop." He said when the system was running, interference in its vicinity was 20 dB over S9 or stronger on all amateur bands from 40 through 6 meters.

MS Super Cities Walk, Halifax by Rick VE1RGG, MS Walk Planning Committee

The Halifax MS Walk was held at the south end of Halifax on Sunday May 1st during a very severe rain storm. I think about 100 mm of rain fell throughout the day. In spite of the weather, about 600 participants came out to do the 8 km walk. Many were well dressed for the rain but the strong winds added to the discomfort by making it very cold.

I was hoping to be able to keep an eye on things from inside of Jacques' well decorated warm service vehicle. Unfortunately part of the route was closed to traffic so I decided to walk along with the tail end of the participants to ensure we didn't close down the route too early. This gave me a real appreciation for the efforts made by the walkers. One of the young participants (about age 7) described it very well; "I am not

only soaked, I am drenched and I can hear my feet sloshing in my shoes!" I promised that next year I would try to have some hot chocolate on hand at the finish line for the younger participants rather than just coffee.

Within a day of the Walk there was about \$100,000 in the bank with more to come.

*When seasick, do not head for
the windward rail of the ship*



MS walkers, 2005

I would like to thank the HAM Operators that helped with the event this year: Jacques VA1JRE, Tom VE1GTC, Terry VE1TRB, Doug VE1LDL, Peter VE1PJW and Wayne VE1WPH who was also out in the cold acting as a crossing guard at the second rest stop.



L to R – VE1TRB, VE1WPH, VE1RGG, VE1PJW, VE1GTC, VA1JRE, VE1LDL

Thank-you also to the many others that offered to help but I only needed a few HAM radio operators. Most of these volunteers were also put to use by helping with two hours of heavy lifting carrying dozens of tables and chairs down two flights of stairs, unloading the delivery truck and setting up signs around the arena. Their assistance was very much appreciated!

HARC Tube Bank Anyone looking for a particular tube or tubes should contact the Tube Bank Managers by e-mail at **tubes@37.com**

or snail mail:

99 Hyson Point Rd.

Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0

There is a nominal charge if we can supply the tube wanted.

Shipping/mailing is extra.

